

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5375
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ATHENS 2966

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJECT: REACTION TO EMBARGO

REF: ATHENS 2927

1. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU STRONGLY ATTACKED CARAMANLIS AND HIS
HANDLING OF THE EMBARGO ISSUE IN A LENGTHY STATEMENT APRIL 8
WHICH WAS CARRIED IN ALL THE SUNDAY PAPERS.
PAPANDREOU CHARGED THE PRIME MINISTER WITH ISSUING A
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"DELAYED AND LUKEWARM" STATEMENT. HE ALLEGED THAT CARAMANLIS
IS A WILLING PARTICIPANT WITH THE UNITED STATES, NATO,
AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN AN "INTRIGUE" WHICH WILL
LEAD TO THE SACRIFICE OF GREECE'S NATIONAL INTEREST.
PAPANDREOU ASSERTED THAT A "PACKAGE DEAL" IS IN THE MAKING
WHICH WILL INCLUDE GREEK CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN,
RETURN TO THE MILITARY WING OF NATO, AND THE GRANTING OF

MILITARY FACILITIES TO THE U.S. IN GREECE IN RETURN FOR GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS "NO RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE BEHIND THE SCENES ON NATIONAL SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE." HE THEN CALLED FOR PRESIDENT TSATSOS TO CONVOKE A COUNCIL OF PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. (UDC LEADER JOHN ZIGDIS HAS MADE THE SAME REQUEST OF TSATSOS.)

2. THE GOG ANSWERED PAPANDREOU'S ATTACK WITH A BRIEF AND BRISK COMMENT THAT THE PASOK LEADER NOT ONLY "VOICE INACCURACIES," BUT DOES SO KNOWINGLY.

3. IN AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT, CONSTANTINE MITSOTAKIS, LEADER OF THE NEW LIBERAL PARTY, ANNOUNCED HIS PARTY'S SATISFACTION WITH CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT ON THE EMBARGO. MITSOTAKIS SAID THE U.S. ACTION AT THIS TIME WORSENS, INSTEAD OF HELPING, THE GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE.

4. ATTENTION TO THE EMBARGO ISSUE HAS FADED SLIGHTLY IN THE GREEK PRESS AND THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF ATTENTION IN THE WAKE OF CARAMANLIS' APRIL 7 STATEMENT AND PAPANDREOU'S COMMENTARY. THUS, FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, ATTENTION IS BEING FOCUSED MORE ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS, PARTICULARLY THE SHARP EXCHANGE BETWEEN PAPANDREOU AND THE GOG. THE PRESS ALSO HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO GREEK CYPRIOT EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT ON THE EMBARGO --
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WHICH SOME PAPERS PLAYED IN A MANNER TO CONTRAST IT TO PAPANDREOU'S ATTACK ON THE PRIME MINISTER. THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO WAS GIVEN WIDE PLAY HERE.
MCCLOSKEY

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